

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, July 17, 2023 @ 6:45pm**

**DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING:**

Zoning Change: Property of Steve Cottrell & Lynda Hawskworth/Gibs Rd/Parcel# 026-049602

Public hearing was called to order at 6:45pm by Chairman O'Connell.

The public was invited to comment, in which there was none. A motion to adjourn was made by Devens/Frakes seconded. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

**Town Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 17, 2023 @ 7pm**

Meeting was called to order at 7pm by Chairman O'Connell and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Chairman O'Connell, Supervisors Devens and Frakes, Clerk/Treasurer Brazee, Deputy C/T Starr, ZA McNamee and 21 others.

*Fire Dept Minutes:* **Accepted as submitted by Devens/seconded by Frakes.**

*First Responder Minutes of June 13 and July 11:* **Accepted as submitted by Devens/seconded by Frakes.**

*Approval of Minutes:*

Board Mtg minutes of 6/12: **Approved as submitted by Frakes/seconded by Devens. Motion carried.**

Special Board Mtg minutes of 6/20: **Approved as submitted by Devens/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**

Special Board Mtg minutes of 6/27: O'Connell is requesting amending the last paragraph regarding additional corresponding fees (i.e. fence, pool, CUP, etc.) are specific incidents that stand on their own and would have a separate fee from the actual zoning fee for a structure (i.e. garage, building). All of the fees are pending further discussion and approval from the board. Brazee will amend the meeting minutes of 6/27. **Approved amended minutes by Frakes/seconded by Devens.**

*County Supervisor Report:* Co Supervisor Farrey acknowledged agenda item #6 regarding the County Spirit funding and will answer any questions the board may have at that time.

O'Connell asked for an update on the Grundman Boat Landing project. Farrey stated it has started with a target completion date of late fall. It likely will be out of service for the rest of the year. A resident asked if there is a map of the project. Farrey stated the map can be found on the Winnebago County website under the parks department.

*Public Input:* O'Connell stated that there are two items that he looking for public input on. The board will not be making any decisions at this meeting but rather looking for residents input on these subjects. Along with the two topics, public input is open for discussion on any other town topics/concerns.

Short-term rentals/vacation rentals: Ray B. commented that we can't legal stop people who rent out their property. He recently met with some people who rent out their property for a living and they asked if there were any rules and regulations in place. Their suggestion was to get something done for the people renting as well as the neighbors. They suggested addressing if it is a short-term rental that will be mostly used on weekends in a party type atmosphere. The other thing is to address the number of people, pets, and knowledge of property line. He said something should be put in place in zoning and regulation and ask the town attorney how to best regulate the situation. That way if the rental becomes an issue, the neighbors can come to the board and then the board can take action. He's not against people having the right to rent out their property; he is stating that it's important to protect the neighbors.

Gwen St.P. shared that she understands the rental situation. They have been in the business of rentals for some time and also rented a VRBO/condo. So she has seen both sides of it. The condo they rented had a minimum of 30 days. She understands why as you don't want changing in visitors all of the time. Most important thing for her on her street is safety. Most people want to live in a community where they know their neighbors and feel safe. She's not against the rental aspect but more in favor of long-term rentals (a year or lease type agreement). Rules and regulations need to be setup prior to any houses being sold in her opinion. Examples: number of guests allowed at one time, number of days they can rent, and percentage of property made into rentals on residential street...is it zoned different. What about background checks before it's rented to somebody.

Kay St.J. has always enjoyed the peaceful, secureness of her street. They are close neighborhood. She does not want that to change. They have great pride in their properties. They enjoy the peaceful and safe place to live. She feels that vacation and short-term rentals have no place in her neighborhood. It is important to have rules and regulations in place to protect the neighborhood now and for the future.

Todd D. stated that at his lake property and that renters don't know lake rules. They have no regulations in place.

Sherry VD. Understands that everyone has the right to do what they wish with their property. However, she worries about the values of their homes. Looking at rental homes, she questions how much is leftover to maintain the rental facilities. She doesn't want to see the rental become run down as that will affect the value of her home because of its proximity to a home that couldn't be maintained in order to make a profit.

Loren's Auto Recycling LLC: O'Connell explained that the town's attorney and Loren's attorney are having a meditation meeting on Monday, July 24. He gave a brief history of the owner's noncompliance with his CUP, history of cars piling up, fires, and omission of his storm water permit with the DNR. Any public input on the subject may be helpful in Monday's discussions. Jodi B. is concerned about water. She had a dog die of bladder cancer and the vet said it was directly related to the environment.

Chris S. asked if there has been any progress on the zebra mussel and algae situation at the end of Cowling Bay Rd. Is the DNR involved or the board? The stench is awful and is wondering if there is a health concern. O'Connell explained that the property is not owned by the town. It's in an LLC. The trustee was in town over the holiday and spoke with her regarding this situation. She is interested in doing something to clean up the zebra mussels and algae bloom. There is a lengthy permitting process that goes along with the

cleanup. It ultimately is up to the LLC as to what do with it. The LLC is giving it some consideration but not to expect anything to happen immediately.

Jerry M. is concerned about what is going into the Tomahawk Landfill. There is a liquid trail going down US Hwy 76 turning down Cty Rd G and into the landfill. He noticed equipment going in a few weeks ago. According to O'Connell the owners of the landfill need to notify the town if they are going to activate it. The town has not been made aware of any activity from Tomahawk. Ray B. thought the agreement was coming to an end in 2025 or 2026.

Frakes asked if the board could have a workshop to discuss tree trimming on personal property. O'Connell stated that if trees are on personal property it is up to the property owner to have it removed or trimmed back.

Zoning: Two zoning permits were submitted. No other board comment.

Financial Report: C/T Brazee quoted the total of all accounts of \$462,443.29 with \$1,189.24 in outstanding checks and a total of all receipts for the month of June being \$12,126.58. **A motion to approve the financial report as submitted was made by Frakes/seconded by Devens. Motion carried.**

Discussion/Take Action Items:

1. Invoices and payroll: **Motion made by Frakes to approve/seconded by Devens. Motion carried.**
2. CSM for Steve Cottrell & Lynda Hawksworth / parcel #s 026-049602 & 026-0496: Combining 2 parcels into 1. **Motion made by Devens to approve CSM/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**
3. Zoning change for Steve Cottrell & Lynda Hawksworth/ 026-049602: Changing zoning from R1 to A2. **Motion made by Devens to approve zoning as A2/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**
4. CSM for Andrew & Jennifer Groves involving parcel #s: 026-06450302 & 026-06450303: **Motion made by Frakes to approve CSM/seconded by Devens. Motion carried.**
5. Commercial site plan review for All Seasons Power Equipment/ parcel# 026-063905: **Motion made by Frakes to approve site plan/seconded by Devens. Motion carried.**
6. Winnebago Co Spirit funding agreement: Board reviewed the agreement sent by the county. TOV will be receiving roughly \$145,000. O'Connell asked Farrey if it is correct that the town will submit projects and then the town will get reimburse with that money. Farrey stated one of the concerns is the Cty is requiring all munis to bid out projects as required by law. The main concern is regarding the reimbursement portion of the agreement. Town's don't have that kind of money to put on a project to wait to get reimbursed.
7. Estimates for replacement of 2 exterior doors and 2 windows: Town received 3 estimates which were all relatively comparable. O'Connell asked for the boards opinions and Devens stated that Complete Carpentry, LLC is a town resident and is going to donate his labor. **Motion was made by Devens to accept the bid from Complete Carpentry, LLC to replace the two windows and 2 doors/seconded by O'Connell. Motion carried.**

Sharing of correspondence: O'Connell agreed to represent the town at the mediation hearing with Loren's. The board members are welcome to attend. Meeting is at 1pm at Herrling Clark.

O'Connell spoke with highway commissioner Doemel about ATV/UTV use on county highways. Doemel said that they would consider a section of Cty Rd T between Cty Rd G and Maxwell Rd. Frakes will discuss this with her ATV club contacts. All town roads are open, but terminate at a county road. Devens asked Farrey if this is a decision Doemel can make or if it would have to go to the highway committee. Farrey said Doemel is just following county ordinance.

Deven's continues to pick up large items that are left in our ditches. This week he collected a loveseat and refrigerator/freezer. Please call the sheriff's dept if you see anyone dumping large items.

Deven's stated that the culverts on Sherman Rd are done. He also asked if we have a fill permit for over 10 loads of dirt. Brazee thought it was discussed but never established a fill permit. The office will look to make sure.

Future Meeting (all held at the Vinland Town Hall unless otherwise noted):

- Planning Commission Meeting: Monday, August 7th
- Town Board Meeting: Monday, August 14th, 7:00 pm
- Board of Appeals: Mondays, August 28th or September 25th, 6:30 pm (if needed)

**Motion to adjourn made by Devens/seconded by Frakes. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Starr  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

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Don O'Connell/Chairman